lakh (Rs. 73.70 lakh sanctioned and Rs. 7.30 lakh escalation cost) for the development of roads in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh for the year 1986-87 to 1988-89 ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not releasing the balance amount of Rs. 17.67 lakh so far ; and

(c) whether Government propose to release the amount immediately in view of the urgent need for development of roads in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 67.56 lakhs has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh from 1986-87 to 1988-89 against the 12 road works costing Rs. 73.70 lakhs. An ad-hoc proposal requesting the revision of the cost to Rs. 81 lakhs was received from the State Government. However, the State Government was requested to furnish the revised estimates of the road works, with justifications for consideration, which are still awaited. The State Government has also been requested to furnish the completion report along with audited statement of accounts if the works have been completed for releasing the balance amount of Rs. 6.14 lakhs in one instalment during the current financial year (1989-90).

Death of an Indian national in Saudi Arabia

1816. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian national expired in Saudi Arabia under mysterious circumstances in March 1989;

(b) whether any complaint was received in the Ministry from Mrs. Molly Thomas widow of the deceased;

(c) if so, what action was taken thereon;

(d) whether any enquiry was conducted into the matter ; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) An Indian national Shri Pothan John Thomas died in Saudi Arabia of asphyxia reportedly due to suicide by hanging.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Following a request from Mrs. Molly Thomas, wife of the deceased received by our Embassy in Riyadh on 15th March, 1989, for tracing the whereabouts of her husband Shri P.J. Thomas, the Embassy contacted the appropriate authorities and ascertained that Shri Thomas had expired reportedly by committing suicide.

(d) and (e) The local police authorities have conducted the necessary enquiries over the death of Shri Thomas. Preliminary reports indicate that no foul play is suspected and death was due to suicide. Detailed police and postmortem reports are, however, awaited and the precise circumstances and reasons for death can be ascertained only after these are received.